## **NEWS RELEASE**



ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT

May 16, 2006

## **Public Invited to Learn About Funding Options** for Mountain View Corridor

Kearns residents are invited to learn more about how Mountain View Corridor funding issues relate to Utah's statewide \$16.5 billion transportation funding shortfall. A Town Hall Meeting will be held on Thursday, June 15, at 6:30 p.m. at Kearns High School, 5525 South Cougar Lane.

Those who attend the meeting will learn about transportation funding options, including tolling. An update on the Mountain View Corridor Environmental Impact Statement study will also be available, and project team members will be on hand to answer questions. A presentation will begin at 6:30 p.m., followed by a question and answer session.

Utah's population is increasing as is the demand for transportation infrastructure, while the funding sources available to pay for maintenance and improvements cannot keep up. This discrepancy between demand and available funding requires a close look at all ways to pay for new roads.

In 2005, the Utah Legislature passed a resolution recognizing the concept of "Managed Lanes" as an effective way to maximize roadway capacity and provide new revenue sources, and urged the Utah Department of Transportation (UDOT) to study and make recommendations on managed lanes use and implementation. Tolling, a relatively new financing concept in Utah, is a managed lanes concept. Various corridors statewide have been identified with managed lanes potential, including the Mountain View Corridor.

It is unlikely that one funding tool on its own will solve the problem. The ultimate solution will more likely be a combination of many tools, according to UDOT.

"No decisions have yet been made for the Mountain View Corridor," said Mountain View Corridor Project Manager Teri Newell. "Tolling is being considered as an option in the ongoing Mountain View Corridor Environmental Impact Statement study."

The Mountain View Corridor team is studying both tolled and non-tolled alternatives in the Environmental Impact Statement study in order to fully understand the impacts of both. The team will disclose the impacts of all alternatives to allow for a fair comparison.

"Public discussions need to take place, but they need to occur with the correct information in hand," Newell said. "We want to get information to the public regarding transportation funding issues, including tolling."

Those interested in learning more about the project should visit the project website at udot.utah.gov/mountainview.

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